

"Express Mail" mailing label number: EV 339771961 US

Date of Deposit: July 22, 2003

Our Case No. 9281/4596
Client Ref. No. N US02519

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| In re Application of: |) | |
| SAITO et al. |) | Previously-Assigned Examiner: |
| |) | B. Miller |
| Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned |) | |
| |) | Previously-Assigned |
| Filing Date: Herewith |) | Group Art Unit No.: |
| |) | 2652 |
| For: SPIN-VALVE MAGNETORESISTIVE |) | |
| THIN FILM ELEMENT |) | |

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

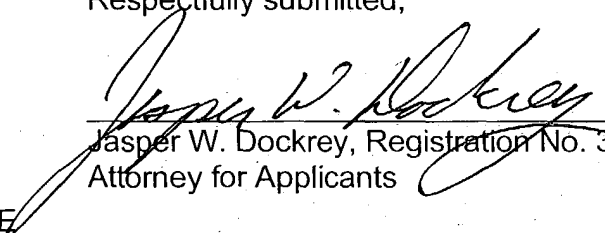
Dear Sir:

Pursuant to the obligation under 37 C.F.R. 1.56 and in conformance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97-1.99, Applicants cite the references A1-30 listed on the attached form PTO-1449 for consideration by the Examiner.

Also submitted are the corresponding PTO-1449 and 892 forms from pending prior United States Application Serial No. 09/358,123, which is being relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. 120. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.98(d) copies of these references are not provided since they were previously cited by or submitted to the Office in the prior application.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement does not constitute an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. 1.56(b). Further, Applicants reserve the right to contest that any of these references is prior art against the present application.

Respectfully submitted,


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Attorney for Applicants

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| FORM PTO-1449 LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS FOR APPLICANT'S INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (use several sheets if necessary) | SERIAL NO. | CASE NO. |
| | To Be Assigned | 9281/4596 |
| | FILING DATE | Previously-Assigned GROUP ART UNIT 2652 |
| APPLICANTS: SAITO et al. | | |

REFERENCE DESIGNATION
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS/ SUBCLASS | FILING DATE |
|------------------|-----|-----------------|------------|---------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| | A1 | 5,287,238 | 02/15/1994 | Baumgart et al. | | |
| | A2 | 5,341,2612 | 08/23/1994 | Dieny et al. | | |
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|------------------|-----|-----------------|------------|---------|-----------------|-----------------|----|
| | A29 | 10-154618 | 06/09/1998 | Japan | | X | |
| | A30 | 10-91921 | 04/10/1998 | Japan | | X | |

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| EXAMINER | DATE CONSIDERED |
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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| FORM PTO-1449 LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS FOR APPLICANT'S INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (use several sheets if necessary) | SERIAL NO. <u>09/358,123</u> To Be Assigned | CASE NO. 9281-3376 |
| | FILING DATE <u>7/20/99</u> ^{Herewith} | GROUP ART UNIT <u>2652</u> |
| | APPLICANT(S): Masamichi Saito et al. | |

REFERENCE DESIGNATION U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS/ SUBCLASS | FILING DATE |
|---------------------|-----|--------------------|----------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| <u>Bn</u> | A1 | 5,465,185 | 11/07/95 | Heim et al. | <u>360/113</u> | |
| | A2 | 5,583,725 | 12/10/96 | Coffey et al. | <u>360/113</u> | |
| | A3 | 5,701,223 | 12/23/97 | Fontana, Jr. et al. | <u>360/113</u> | |
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| | A5 | 5,768,069 | 06/16/98 | Mauri | <u>360/113</u> | |
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| | A10 | 5,341,2612 | 08/23/94 | Dieny et al. | <u>360/113</u> | |
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| EXAMINER INITIAL | OTHER ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.) |
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| FORM PTO-1449 | SERIAL NO. 09/358,123 | CASE NO. 9281/3376 |
| LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS FOR APPLICANT'S INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT | FILING DATE July 20, 1999 | GROUP ART UNIT 2652 |
| (use several sheets if necessary) | APPLICANT(S): Masamichi Saito et al. | |

REFERENCE DESIGNATION

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| EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS/ SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION YES NO | |
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| EXAMINER <i>B. Smith</i> | DATE CONSIDERED <i>10/3/01</i> |
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| FORM PTO-1449 OFFICE OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS FOR APPLICANT'S INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT OCT 28 2002 PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE | SERIAL NO. | 09/358,123 | CASE NO. | 9281/3376-1 |
| | FILING DATE | July 20, 1999 | GROUP ART UNIT | 2652 |
| | APPLICANTS: SAITO et al. | | | |

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| EXAMINER <i>[Signature]</i> | DATE CONSIDERED <i>1/21/03</i> |
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| FORM PTO-892 | | U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE | | SERIAL NO. 09/358,123 | GROUP ART UNIT 2652 | ATTACHMENT TO PAPER NO. | 12 |
| NOTICE OF REFERENCES CITED | | | | APPLICANT(S) Saito et al | | | |
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| OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) | | | | | | | |
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| EXAMINER Brian E. Miller | | | DATE October 4, 2001 | | Form892ccs2106b | | |
| * A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this office action. (See Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, section 707.05(a).) | | | | | | | |

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Notice of References Cited

Application/Control No.

09/358,123

Applicant(s)/Patent Under
Reexamination
SAITO ET AL.

Examiner

Brian E. Miller

Art Unit

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Page 1 of 1

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| | C | US-6,157,525 | 12-2000 | Iwasaki et al. | 360/324.12 |
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*A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(a).)
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| | B | US-5,739,987 | 04-1998 | Yuan et al. | 360/327.32 |
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EXPRESS MAIL NO. EL 448 310 104 US

DATE OF DEPOSIT

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Our Case No. 9281-3376

Client Reference No. N US98062

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In re Application of:)
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Masamichi Saito et al.)
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Serial No. To Be Assigned)
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For SPIN-VALVE MAGNETORESISTIVE)
THIN FILM ELEMENT)

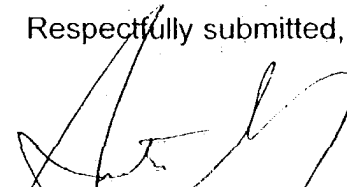
SUBMISSION OF CERTIFIED COPY OF PRIORITY DOCUMENTS

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Transmitted herewith are certified copies of priority documents Japanese Patent Application Nos. 10-204756, filed July 21, 1998; 10-204763, filed July 21, 1998; and 1-204767, filed July 21, 1998, for the above-named U.S. application.

Respectfully submitted,



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